operations to more destinations including services to South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC);

(b) if so, the details including private airlines and destinations allowed as on today;

(c) whether steps will be taken to allow national carriers (Indian Airlines and Air India) to induct capacity by expanding their fleet renewal programmes to meet long term capacity needs on international routes;

(c) if so, details thereof; and

(d) whether competent authority will postpone the sanction given to private airlines till national carriers strengthen their fleet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Government has presently permitted private airlines to operate to SAARC countries against unutilized entitlements of the Indian side subject to the provision for designation of multiple airlines in the respective Air Services Agreement. On the basis of their requests, Jet Airways and Air Sahara have so far been designated for operating to Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh. Both have since commenced operations to Sri Lanka (Colombo) and Nepal (Kathmandu).

(c) to (d) Both Air India and Indian Airlines have inducted aircraft on lease to expand their fleet. The fleet acquisition plan of Indian Airlines has already been approved at the PIB level. Air India Charters Limited, a subsidiary company of Air India, have submitted a project report for acquisition of 18 aircrafts. Air India has also floated tender for its additional fleet requirement. The two airlines would be strengthened by extending support towards their fleet acquisition plan subject to the guidelines of the Government for public investment. However, the decision to permit private airlines to fly to SAARC countries is not linked to the fleet expansion plans of Air India/Indian Airlines.

Landing Rights for Foreign Airlines

1902. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

SHRI ANAND SHARMA:

PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign airlines which have been given landing rights by India in cities other than International gateways;

(b) the names of the foreign airlines and the Indian cities for which such rights have been granted;

(c) whether the foreign countries concerned have given reciprocal rights to Indian Carriers; and

(d) the details for five year period from 1999-2004 country and airline-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Traffic rights for operation of international air services to/from India and the destinations to which such flights can be operated are specified in India's Air Services Agreements with various countries. Airlines of more than 25 countries are presently having traffic rights for operating to destinations other than the 4 metro cities in India under their respective Air Services Agreements. Besides the 4 metro cities, the stations to which atleast one foreign airline is having rights are as follows:—

Bangalore, Hyderabad, Patna, Lucknow, Guwahati, Gaya, Varanasi, Bhubaneswar, Khajuraho, Aurangabad, Goa, Jaipur, Port Blair, Cochin, Thiruvananthapuram, Calicut, Amritsar, Visakhapatnam, Ahmedabad and Tiruchirapalli.

(c) All traffic rights granted to foreign countries are with reciprocal traffic rights to our designated carriers.

(d) The new destinations to which foreign airlines have been given access since 1999 are given in the Statement.

Statement

New Points of Call granted to foreign airlines since 1999

Australia	Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad
Austria	Mumbai
Bhutan	Gaya
Brunei	Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai & 18 tourist gateways
Cambodia	18 tourist gateways
Germany	Bangalore

Gulf Air owning States	Bangalore, Cochin
Hong Kong	Bangalore
Indonesia	Delhi, Chenni & 18 tourist gateways
Iran	Delhi
Kenya	Delhi
Kuwait	Chennai, Cochin
Kyrghyzstan	Amritsar
Malaysia	Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and 18 tourist gaeways
Mauritius	Chennai
Myanmar	Mumbai & 18 tourist gateways
Oman	Cochin
Philippines	Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai & 18 tourist gateways
Qatar	Hyderabad, Cochin
Saudi Arabia	Cochin, Hyderabad
Singapore	Hyderabad, Bangalore and 18 tourist gateways
Slovakia	Amritsar
South Africa	Delhi
Sri Lanka	Bangalore, Hyderabad and 18 tourist gateways
Thailand '	Bangalore and 18 tourist gateways
Tunisia	Mumbai, Delhi
Turkmenistan	Amritsar
U.K.	Bangalore, Hyderabad, Cochin
UAE (Dubai)	Chennai, Hyderabad, Cochin
Uzbekistan	Trivandrum, Amritsar
Vietnam	Kolkata, Chennai & 18 tourist gateways

Note-18 tourist gateways:—
Ahmedabad.Amritsar, Aurangabad, Bhubneshwar, Calicut, Cochin, Gaya,

Goa, Guwahati, Jaipur, Khajuraho, Lucknow, Patna, Port Blair, Trivandrum, Tiruchi, Varanasi, Visakhapatnam.